

Inventory Number 147-3250-0006

REGISTER OF HISTORIC KANSAS PLACES--COVER SHEET

Name of Property Church of the Transfiguration

Location 210 Washington
(street and number)

Logan
(city, town, or vicinity location)
Lots 5 and 6 Addition., Block 6 of Newman's

(legal description)

Phillips
(County)

Owner of Property City of Logan

City Hall
(street and number)

Logan, Kansas (PHILLIPS) 67646
(city, town, county)

National Register Status:

date approved for nomination to the National Register by Kansas Historic
Sites Board of Review _____

date entered in National Register _____

Description: See attached sheets

Significance See attached sheets.

Form prepared by Martha Hagedorn-Krass Date September, 1988

This property was approved for listing in the Register of Historic Kansas Places
by the Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review on October 29, 1988

I hereby certify that this property is included in the Register of Historic
Kansas Places.



State Historic Preservation Officer

October 29, 1988
Date

The Church of the Transfiguration (c. 1890) in Logan, Phillips County is being nominated to the Register of Historic Kansas Places for its historical association with the expansion of the Episcopal Church in Kansas in 1889-1890. In 1890 Episcopal churches were built or nearing completion in Atchison (St. Andrew's Mission), Kansas City, Larned, Logan, Ottawa, Pittsburg, Runnymede, and Topeka (St. Simon the Cyrenian's). The Logan church was founded in 1889; Episcopal parishes were active in the neighboring communities of Kirwin, Phillipsburg, Prairie View, and Stockton as well.

Logan was first settled in 1870 along the Missouri Pacific Railroad line in southwestern Phillips County. In 1889, the population of the town did not exceed five hundred people. The Episcopal Diocese of Leavenworth responded to a request from several Episcopalian families in Logan to send a minister to the community in 1889.

Reverend Percy C. Webber was responsible for founding the Guild of the Transfiguration, which later became the Church of the Transfiguration, in February, 1889. Forty people were admitted to the church and thirty-two people were baptized at this first meeting. These early services were held at the Masonic Hall, Schanbel's Hall, the G.A.R. Hall, and the schoolhouse. Two lay readers were appointed in February, 1889, James Schulze and George E. Bridges, both of Logan. In March, 1889 the Phillips County Freeman noted that Episcopalian prayer books and hymnals were for sale at the Palace Drug Store for 50¢.

In November, 1889 Reverend Webber made \$2000 available to the Guild of the Transfiguration for the construction of a church. Presumably this money

came from the Diocese, as it was kept in an account in Leavenworth. Webber was lauded by the Phillips County Freeman for this action.

His sermons are always characterized by fine thoughts and scholarly deductions, while the teachings of the Bible permeate the whole trend of the discourse. His visitations are like an oasis to a barren land.-
November 7, 1889

The Church is a direct gift by Father Webber, and is perhaps the largest gift ever made for the same purpose in northwest Kansas, and will stand for ages as a monument to his generosity.-
January 16, 1890

The plans for the church were drawn by Captain E. Pond, assistant quarter master at Fort Riley. In this position with the army, Pond was responsible for the maintenance, repair, and construction of buildings at the fort, presumably having a good background in engineering from West Point. In January, 1890 the plans for the church were on display at the J.D. Edmond hardware store in Logan.

Construction on the church began in March, 1890. Logan carpenter Ernest Blaksley, Towanda Township masons Pearson Brothers, and plasterer Joe Fisk were hired to build the church. By May the walls were almost completed to the top of the windows on this one story church. By early June carpentry work had begun and the masonry work was almost completed.

In mid-June a windstorm blew off the newly completed roof and destroyed the walls to as low as the windows. The Phillips County Freeman wrote that:

The roof was carried 200 feet and totally destroyed. Loss about one thousand dollars. - June 19, 1890

Rebuilding commenced on the church immediately, but to almost no avail, as a mid-August windstorm blew off the roof again and knocked a hole in the east gable. Just when the church was finally completed is not clear, but it was dedicated on December 27, 1890.

Webber came to the Diocese of Leavenworth from the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania in 1886. He won a seat on the Executive Missionary Committee in 1888 and in 1889 became the Dean of the Southwest Convocation. Webber served the Diocese until October, 1890, when he was transferred to the Diocese of Milwaukee, although he returned to Logan for the dedication of the Church of the Transfiguration. An abstracted paragraph from the 1890 journal of the Bishop of the Diocese of Leavenworth gives some interesting insight into Webber's success in Logan.

The peculiar and difficult feature of our work in Kansas is that the Diocese has few large towns. Our jurisdiction is made up of villages and small hamlets, in each of which may be found five, ten, and sometimes twenty communicants . . . Unless the Diocese, at this Convention, makes a largely increased pledge, it will be impossible to keep five General Missionaries in the field.

In 1901 the Diocese of Leavenworth was divided and Salina became the headquarters for the Missionary District of Western Kansas. The Logan Church is the oldest in the western diocese. In 1920, the Church of the Transfiguration was closed for lack of a congregation. It was used by the Modern Woodman and the Logan Public Schools as a lodge hall, classroom, and dance hall until the late 1930s. Between 1937 and 1944 services were held in the church intermittently, pews were added and the rood screen at the altar was rebuilt and painted. In 1977 the diocese quit claimed the church to the City of Logan, who, with considerable financial assistance from the Dane G. Hansen Foundation, restored the church. It is now a public museum and church services are held in it every Sunday.